

## *Learn about guinea pigs - Breeding, chapter 2*

Male guinea pigs are ready to breed when they are only approximately 3 to 4 weeks old. It takes a little longer for the females to mature but male guinea pigs should be separated from the rest of the family before they get a chance to breed. Of course if you want to interbreed, you shouldn't have too much trouble doing so, as guinea pigs are great breeders.

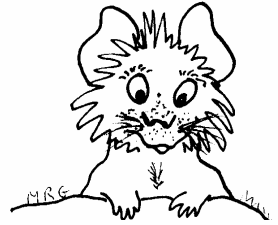
It is not recommended to interbreed, this means breeding brothers, sisters, mums and dads with each other. If you decide to breed some guinea pigs, try breeding with different families instead. You will get stronger and healthier guinea pigs that way.



Female guinea pigs are best bred young, before they reach six months of age. This may seem very young but once a female guinea pig reaches above six months of age and she has never had a litter, she could develop complications during the birth of her babies and risk them dying... or even herself. Of course this is not the case for all guinea pigs, it often depends on the type and strength of the guinea pig.

Females cycle every 16 days and once pregnant will carry the young for about 68 days. Females can give birth from one to eight babies at a time. Once the littlies are born they will suckle of the mother almost immediately. Baby guinea pigs are born with hair and with eyes open. Babies are often weaned, taken of mother's milk, round about week three.





Name \_\_\_\_\_

## Find the guinea pig breeds!

standard self  
satin  
rex  
abyssinian  
agouti  
texel

crested  
dutch  
himalayan  
tortoiseshell  
peruvian

sheltie  
alpaca  
argenti  
bicolour  
brindle

dalmatian  
harlequin  
magpie  
merino  
roan

q r d a l m a t i a n l a  
p f g q z x r h z x r l h  
e l x e i p g a m s u e i  
r e x f h m e r i n o h m  
u s a y q z n l z a l s a  
v d c r e s t e d i o e l  
i r a a l z i q u n c s a  
a a p g d x l u t i i i y  
n d l o n n e i c s b o a  
n n a u i z x n h s z t n  
a a x t r x e z w y m r y  
o t a i b z t c s b q o u  
r s h e l t i e x a r t w

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Circle the spelling or grammatical errors in each paragraph

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It is not recommended to intrebreed, this means breeding brothers, sisters, mums and dads with each other. If you decide to breed some guinea pigs, try breeding with different family's instead. You will get stronger and healthier ginea pigs that way. (3 errors)

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**Answer Key Circle the spelling or grammatical errors in each paragraph**

**Male** guinea pigs are ready to **breed** when they are only **approximately** 3 to 4 weeks old. It takes a little longer for the females to mature but male guinea pigs should be **separated** from the rest of the family before they get a chance to breed. Of course if you want to interbreed, you shouldn't have too much trouble doing so, as guinea pigs are great breeders. (4 errors)

It is not recommended to **interbreed**, this means breeding brothers, sisters, mums and dads with each other. If you decide to breed some guinea pigs, try breeding with different **families** instead. You will get stronger and healthier **guinea** pigs that way. (3 errors)

**Female** guinea pigs are best bred young, before they reach six months of age. This may seem very young but once a female guinea pig **reaches** above six months of age and she has never had a **litter**, she could develop complications during the birth of her babies and risk them **dying**... or even herself. Of course this is not the case for all guinea pigs, it often depends on the type and strength of the guinea pig. (4 errors)

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**Outcomes:**

**English – reading, writing, spelling, grammar**

**Science – general knowledge about guinea pigs, breeding cycle, looking after pets**

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The following outcomes could be achieved by completing the entire guinea pig theme; *beat boredom, breeding, caring for guinea pigs, diseases and disorders, feeding guinea pigs healthy foods, feeding guinea pigs unhealthy foods, general knowledge, holding guinea pigs, housing guinea pigs, males and females, photos, taming guinea pigs.*

### **English**

- reading
- writing
- alphabetical order
- develop further research skills

### **Science**

- learn about guinea pigs in captivity
- breeding, males and females
- familiarize oneself with diseases that affect guinea pigs
- breeding
- feeding habits
- biological data

### **Mathematics**

- problem solving
- learn about data

### **Health**

- personal hygiene when handling animals
- guinea pig health related issues

### **Technology**

- design, cage and feeding utensils
- research using the Internet
- basic computer knowledge
- Use of camera (or digital camera)

### **Art**

- design and layout
- creative playtime planning for pets
- drawing

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| Cross curricula based learning |
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